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Carter's Man for the CIA

In his second attempt to fill the sensitive post of director of Central Intelligence, President Carter seems to have come up with a good choice in Admiral Stansfield Turner, but perhaps to the detriment of the Navy.

Turner, after a brilliant career that made him commander of Allied forces in southern Europe at age 53, had appeared to be headed in a couple of years for the Navy's top job, chief of naval operations.

And since he is a highly intelligent and innovative officer, he could have performed valuable services at the head of the Navy, which tends to be one of the most tradition-bound military branches.

However, after the collapse of his nomination of Theodore Sorensen as CIA

chief, Carter did not have the luxury of waiting for a Navy berth to open up for Turner.

As Carter calculated, Turner is being welcomed by the so-called intelligence community, which has ways of sinking an unwanted nominee, and by the Senate. In fact the only opposition has come from those who object to a "military man" in the post.

Fortunately, Turner appears to be an independent thinker capable of furnishing Carter with objective intelligence. His background as a Rhodes Scholar, defense systems analyst and president of the Naval War College makes him a good bet to manage the CIA successfully.